

Amendments to the Claims:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-21 (canceled).

Claim 22 (new). A plug-in electronic module for plugging into a holding structure having a coupling partner with an electrical contact, the electronic module comprising:

a housing;

an electronic component configured in said housing;

at least one external electrical contact connected to said electronic component, said external electrical contact configured for contacting the electrical contact on the coupling partner during a plug-in operation in which the electronic module is plugged into the holding structure; and

a mechanical protective device for protecting said electrical contact from mechanical contact when the electronic module is not plugged into the holding structure, said protective device exposing said electrical contact when the electronic module is plugged into the holding structure such that said electrical contact comes into contact with the electrical contact on the coupling partner.

Claim 23 (new). The module according to claim 22, wherein:

said protective device includes a moving protective element configured for moving between a first position and a second position;

said electrical contact is protected when said moving protective element is in said first position;

said electrical contact is exposed when said moving protective element is in said second position; and

said moving protective element moves from said first position to said second position when the electronic module is plugged into the holding structure.

Claim 24 (new). The module according to claim 23, wherein said moving protective element is displaceable relative to said housing.

Claim 25 (new). The module according to claim 24, wherein said protective element is a flat protective tongue that is displaceable longitudinally relative to said housing.

Claim 26 (new). The module according to claim 25, further comprising:

at least one spring element for holding said moving protective element in said first position in an unplugged state;

said spring element allowing said protective element to move into said second position counter to a spring force during said plug-in operation; and

at least part of said protective tongue having a circulatory concave profile for mechanically guiding said spring element on said protective tongue.

Claim 27 (new). The module according to claim 23, further comprising:

at least one spring element for holding said moving protective element in said first position in an unplugged state;

said spring element allowing said protective element to move into said second position counter to a spring force during said plug-in operation.

Claim 28 (new). The module according to claim 27, wherein said spring element is formed integral with said housing.

Claim 29 (new). The module according to claim 27, wherein spring element is a separate part that is mounted on said housing or inserted into said housing.

Claim 30 (new). The module according to claim 23, wherein said moving protective element includes a stop element for mechanically contacting the coupling partner during said plug-in operation such that said moving protective element is moved into said second position and said electrical contact is exposed.

Claim 31 (new). The module according to claim 30, wherein:

said moving protective element includes an end with an angled-away part forming said stop element; and

said angled away part is a first part of said moving protective element touched by the holding structure during said plug-in operation.

Claim 32 (new). The module according to claim 23, wherein said moving protective element is moveable into itself and has an end connected firmly to said housing.

Claim 33 (new). The module according to claim 32, wherein said moving protective element is a foldable element that folds together during said plug-in operation to expose said electrical contact.

Claim 34 (new). The module according to claim 33, wherein:

said foldable element includes a plurality of bars running transversely with respect to a longitudinal direction of the module;

said plurality of bars define a longitudinal side; and

said plurality of bars are connected together for enabling tilting along said longitudinal side.

Claim 35 (new). The module according to claim 33, wherein said moving protective element is a roll-up part configured for rolling up during said plug-in operation to expose said electrical contact.

Claim 36 (new). The module according to claim 23, wherein said moving protective element is made of an electrically conductive material.

Claim 37 (new). The module according to claim 23, wherein said moving protective element is made of an insulating material.

Claim 38 (new). The module according to claim 23, wherein said moving protective element is made of a material that absorbs electromagnetic waves.

Claim 39 (new). The module according to claim 23, wherein said moving protective element is spaced apart from said electrical contact in a first position.

Claim 40 (new). The module according to claim 22, wherein said electronic component includes an optoelectronic transmitter, an optoelectronic receiver, or an optoelectronic transceiver.

Claim 41 (new). A method for connecting an electronic module to a holding structure for holding the electronic module, the method which comprises:

providing the electronic module with an electronic component and at least one external electrical contact connected to the electronic component;

providing the holding structure with a coupling partner having at least one electrical contact;

providing the electronic module with a mechanical protective device having a moving protective element that protects the external electrical contact from mechanical contact when the electronic module is not inserted into the holding structure; and

moving the moving protective element relative to the external electrical contact when the electric module is plugged into the holding structure such that the external electrical contact is exposed and contacts the electrical contact on the coupling partner.

Claim 42 (new). The method according to claim 41, which further comprises moving the moving protective element

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relative to at least one spring element interacting with the protective element during a plug-in operation.